

The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, covering the labor movement, legislative and judicial action, and such other information as will benefit the trade union movement.

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

Men commonly think according to their inclinations.—Bacon.

WHOLE NO. 1097. WILLIAM GREEN, President. WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, APRIL 16, 1932. FRANK MORRISON, Secretary. VOL. 22, NO. 6.

A. F. of L. Reiterates Stand Against Federal Pay Reduction

Trade Union Executives' Conference at Washington Mobilizes Labor's Friends in Congress—Green Declares Wage Reduction Would Not Only Lower Living Standards of Government Workers, But Would Also Spur Private Employers to Slash Pay and Intensify the Economic Degradation Accompanying Unemployment.

Washington.—A conference of the executives of the national and international unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor met at the headquarters of the organization today to discuss the continued attempts of some members of Congress to force pay cuts upon Government employees. William Green, president of the A. F. of L., presided.

At the conclusion of the conference, President Green made the following statement:

"The representatives of millions of working men and women who met at the headquarters of the American Federation of Labor repeated, with increased emphasis, their opposition to the imposition of wage reductions upon Government employees.

"They voiced their unanimous protest against such a proposal and directed that an appeal be made to the friends of the people in Congress to defeat it.

"Reports received at the offices of the American Federation of Labor from all sections of the country show that labor is greatly alarmed over the reported attempts of some members of Congress to force pay cuts upon Government employees.

"These workers know that if Congress cuts wages the last line of defense against lower living standards for millions of working men and women will be broken down.

"Our boasted American standard of living will be a myth.

"Increase of Economic and Social Degradation

"Wage cutting action by Congress will come as a signal to private employers to do likewise.

"This, in turn, will result in intensified economic and social degradation in the industrial sections of the country where unemployment, hunger and misery now acutely exist.

"Wage Cutting Will Stimulate Social Unrest

"This is no time for Congress to launch upon an unsound economic pessimism program.

"It should not add to the spirit of social unrest through the pursuit of a wage-cutting policy.

"It should strive to build mass morale, inspire hope, stimulate buying power, restore prosperity and confidence.

"Congress Should Protect Living Standards

"Congress can do this by announcing to the world that the American standard of living, prevailing among the employees of the Government of the United States, will not be lowered through the imposition of a reduction in wages.

"The American Federation of Labor, speaking for the working men and women of the Nation, appeals to the members of Congress to preserve and protect the living standards established by Government employees through years of effort.

"Do not add to the economic misery of our beloved country by voting to impose wage cuts upon thousands of faithful, trained, valuable Government employees who, by the very nature of their employment, must depend upon Congress for the protection and preservation of their living standards.

DRIVE FOR MILLION JOBS TO CONTINUE UNTIL FALL

New York.—Pursuing the half million mark, the American Federation of Labor will continue its drive for a million jobs until fall, according to its officials.

The campaign, sponsored by the American Federation of Labor, is aimed at securing a million jobs for the unemployed by the end of the year. It is a continuation of the campaign which was started in the fall of 1931.

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Green Opposes 10 Per Cent Cut In Federal Appropriation Bills

A. F. of L. Chief Says Arbitrary Reduction Proposed by Certain Senators Would Stop Public Construction Projects and Add Thousands of Building Trades Workers and Government Employees to the Already Huge Army of the Unemployed—Insists That Congress Should Create Work Instead of Decreasing the Number of Jobs and Urges Prompt Defeat of the Unwise Economic Policy.

Washington.—Emphatic opposition to the campaign in the United States Senate to increase unemployment, per cent in bills providing funds for the operation of the Government was expressed by William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, in a formal statement.

In unmistakable language he pointed out that the proposal would stop public building construction already authorized by the Government and add thousands of building trades workers and Government employees to the already huge army of the unemployed.

"Labor is greatly aroused," President Green said, "over the attempt to make an arbitrary reduction of ten per cent in the Federal appropriation bills. This cut in appropriations will be in addition to reductions made by the House and Budget and the reductions imposed by the House of Representatives.

"We are opposed to Jobless Army

"If the proposal to reduce appropriations ten per cent is favorably accepted, many building and construction projects authorized by Congress will fail.

"This in turn will mean that thousands of building trades workers will be added to the army of the unemployed.

"In addition, it will mean that thousands of Government employees will be discharged from the service.

"To stop building construction authorized by the Government and to add thousands of building trades workers to the number already unemployed would serve to aggravate an already serious condition.

Congress Should Create Work

"Instead of taking action that would tend to increase unemployment, Congress, in the opinion of Labor, should create work by increasing the public program providing for the creation of work opportunities so that employment may be increased.

"The country needs the constructive help of Congress.

Unemployment Situation Desperate

"Instead of curtailing public employment and construction projects, Congress should take action against this policy of false economy, this proposal to arbitrarily reduce appropriations measures ten per cent.

"We earnestly hope this attempt will fail and the proposal will be defeated.

Unemployment situation is becoming desperate.

Men and women are begging for work.

At the present time community relief funds are becoming exhausted.

Work must be provided for the unemployed if hunger and distress resulting from long continued unemployment are to be overcome.

The arbitrary reduction of appropriations ten per cent, with the resulting economic and social consequences, represents an unwise policy of economy which Congress at this session should not approve.

It represents a most unsound and unscientific method of dealing with appropriations.

It is in character and should be defeated.

Labor Asks Defeat of 10 Per Cent Cut

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Tragedy of Unemployment

Twenty-Five Million Jobless

At the opening of the sixteenth annual session of the International Association of Labor Unions, the delegates of the League of Nations at Geneva, Switzerland, estimated that the world's unemployed population today exceeds 25,000,000.

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Wage Cut on Topeka Post Office Canceled by U. S. Conciliator

Topeka, Kan.—The hearing of wage scale by the conciliator in charge of constructing the new post office at Topeka, Kan., has been canceled by the U. S. Conciliator.

The conciliator, in his report to the Federal Labor Board, stated that the hearing was canceled because the union representatives had failed to appear.

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Flashes From Labor's Firing Line

San Francisco Chauffeurs Reject Starvation Wage Cut

San Francisco, Calif.—The union of San Francisco chauffeurs has rejected a proposed wage cut of \$1 to \$1.50 per week.

Seattle Mail Trades Prevent Wage Cut for Nonunionists

Seattle, Wash.—The union of Seattle mail trades has prevented a proposed wage cut for nonunionists.

Bricklayers Cut Wages

The Bricklayers' Union of America has agreed to a proposed wage cut of 10 per cent.

Texan Printing Trades Meet

The Texas State Allied Printing Trades Union has met to discuss a proposed wage cut.

Women Boost Union's Activities

The Central Council of Women's Auxiliaries has announced plans to boost the union's activities.

San Bernardino City Council Closes Meat Markets on Sunday

The city council of San Bernardino, Calif., has voted to close meat markets on Sunday.

Anticipating Injunction Asked by Dayton Merchant

The Dayton merchant has anticipated an injunction against a proposed strike.

Willie-Barre Labor On the Air

Willie-Barre, Ind.—The labor union has been featured on the radio.

Augusta Unions Oppose Wage Reductions for City Employees

The unions of Augusta, Ga., have opposed proposed wage reductions for city employees.

Anticipating Injunction Asked by Dayton Merchant

The Dayton merchant has anticipated an injunction against a proposed strike.

New Orleans Central Body Condemns Dry Congressmen

The New Orleans Central Body has condemned dry congressmen.

Rochester Ice Wagon Drivers Win Strike Against Wage Cut

The Rochester ice wagon drivers have won their strike against a wage cut.

State Collects Unpaid Wages

The state has collected unpaid wages from employers.

Carpenters Reduce Wages

The carpenters have agreed to a reduction in wages.

Utah State Boards Refuse to Pay Cut Urged by Gov. Dern

The Utah state boards have refused to pay a cut urged by Governor Dern.

St. Joseph Building Trades Condemn Convict Quarries

The St. Joseph building trades have condemned convict quarries.

Dayton Central Labor Union Blocks Scheme of Communists

The Dayton Central Labor Union has blocked a scheme of communists.

Los Angeles Labor Leader Goes to Civil Service Board

The Los Angeles labor leader has gone to the civil service board.

Ontario Labor Asks 5-Day Week

The Ontario labor union has asked for a 5-day week.

Kroger Grocery Picketed

The Kroger grocery store has been picketed.

\$600,000 Relief Fund Urged For District of Columbia

Washington.—The House of Representatives has urged the creation of a \$600,000 relief fund for the District of Columbia.

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Missouri Labor Federation 1932 Convention is Called

Executive Board Declares Starvation in Midst of Plenty, and Condemns Congress for Refusing Unemployment.

St. Louis, Mo.—The executive board of the Missouri Labor Federation has called its 1932 convention.

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One Week's Work Per Month For Idle of Hibbing, Minn.

Hibbing, Minn.—The Hibbing labor union has demanded one week's work per month for the idle.

Charles E. Cullen, Painter, Brotherhood Official, Dies

Charles E. Cullen, a painter and brotherhood official, has died.

Utah State Boards Refuse to Pay Cut Urged by Gov. Dern

The Utah state boards have refused to pay a cut urged by Governor Dern.